

Alana Gibson – Placement Reflection (Childcare Level 3 - Year 1)

I attended my work placement at a primary school for approximately six months. The school was extremely welcoming towards me, and I felt very comfortable from the first day of being there. To make me feel welcome, they included me in conversations and ensured I was included in the lesson plans in order to ensure I had a good relationship with both the teachers and the students.

The first time I went to the school, I was given a tour and an introduction to the teacher who I'd be working with, which in my opinion helped me to feel more comfortable. On this day I also had my DBS form and passport photocopied to ensure that I was safe to go do my work placement at the school.

From my work experience, I believe that I have more confidence, as I was put into a situation where I didn't know anybody, this has also helped my communication skills. I've also gained major skills needed when working with children, understanding how to meet children's needs through play and learning time and how to get children involved in activities throughout the day. I gained a huge amount of knowledge from my time at work placement such as watching the other teachers and getting a first-hand experience of what it's like to work with that age group of children.

Every day the class would get split into 3-4 groups for their activities and I would either take a group of children on my own (still within the classroom, so that the teachers can still watch me and make sure I am doing the right thing), or I would join another teacher's group and give them any support if needed. I enjoyed everything at placement, the whole experience was amazing, but I particularly enjoyed being with the children at choosing time and playing with them. This helped me to understand what they like and dislike. I also enjoyed doing arts and crafts with the children.

I believe that the whole experience helped build up my experience of working with young children. In terms of completing my assignments, they gave me a lot of experience which I'm able to use in my assignments. As for my placement assessments, they helped me set everything up and they gave me multiple ideas on what to do and include in my activities. This really helped me decide what was for the best in order to complete my placement assessment to the best of mine and the children's ability.

My placement experience has definitely influenced my future career plans, as before I was uncertain of which path to go down after completing my course, but I am now certain that I want to go to university and then become a reception teacher.

At first I found it challenging to lead activities on my own, because I didn't have much confidence and I didn't know the children very well. At first, balancing both work placement and college classes was difficult as I didn't have great time management. However as time went on, I started to get better at time management and found it much easier to balance both college and work placement.